

LUTHER HALL  
BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN

Revised 1915

H.A.B.S. No Wis 127

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△ PHOTOGRAPHS △

WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT No 28

REPRODUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Building Survey  
Alexander C. Guth District Officer  
1249 North Franklin Place, Milwaukee, Wis.

LUTHER HALL  
Burlington, Racine County, Wisconsin.

Owner Lutheran Church

Date of Erection. 1852

Architect. Not known

Builder. Not known

Present Condition. Good

Number of Stories. One

Materials of Construction. Exterior walls of field stone.  
Very thick and covered with plaster. This surface  
was then painted in imitation of stone jointing.  
The cornices are all of pine.

Other Existing Records. None known.

Additional Data. (See following pages.)

## LUTHER HALL.

Severe, stately Luther Hall stands on the corner of Jefferson and Dyer Streets in the city of Burlington, Wisconsin. This structure was erected in 1852 as a free meeting hall for all Protestant denominations. As such it was used for many years and put to good use indeed from the reports that one gets from many an old time settler. Today it is owned and used by those of the Lutheran belief.

This simple edifice of religion has much in it that might well be termed architectural charm. Its very severity is its greatest point of interest. The refined lines are reminiscent of some of the temple-like structures which were erected during the Greek Revival period in ~~the~~ most of the cities through the East.

The plan is as typical of a meeting hall as the exterior is. It consists of just a simple auditorium with the barest of accessory rooms.

The exterior walls of Luther Hall are entirely constructed of field stone. The walls are extremely thick and are ~~then~~ covered with a heavy coat of plaster. This surface was ~~then~~ painted in imitation of stone jointing. The cornices are all of pine.

This structure at one time boasted of a cupola. No pictures or illustrations of this have been found. Even old settlers in this domain can only recall its existence and not its exact appearance.

The exterior details are pure and entirely in keeping with the design of the building. Especially noteworthy are the profiles of the large pilaster caps.

A detail of the interior which commends itself is rather a clever device. It consists of a low type of well-detailed wood wainscot which encircles the main auditorium. The wainscot is made up of horizontal pine boarding about 10 inches in width. The center one is hinged at the top and equipped with wooden struts or stays which hold this hinged member in place so that it may act as a seat.

Little more can be written about this old time structure except that it is a real contribution to the architecture of the great and new Northwest. It has seen this architecture change, or rather run the gauntlet of many vicissitudes. But thru it all this temple of religion has held its own and may well be compared today with many a newer and more modern structure put to like uses.

*William C. Smith*  
Field Officer.